

Department of Human Services

Articles in Today's Clips Monday, August 20, 2007

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

Prepared by the
DHS Office of
Communications
(517) 373-7394



<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
*DHS Director	2-9
*Foster Care	10-13
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	14-15
Juvenile Justice	16-19
Domestic Violence	20-23
Vulnerable Adults	24
Child Care	25-27
Child Custody	28
Health Care	29-32
*Important story at this spot	
Homelessness	33
Food Assistance	34-36
Volunteers	37

EXPERTUS MAXIMUS

We understand small business needs.



CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Mary Kramer: Blogger's attack on Ahmed unwarranted

By Mary Kramer

3:01 am, August 20, 2007

Last week, Gov. Granholm made it official: Ismael Ahmed is her pick to lead the Michigan Department of Human Services to replace former Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan executive Marianne Udow. Udow resigned her state post to take a health care position in the private sector.

☐ Advertisement

Ahmed co-founded and leads the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, a small nonprofit with about \$15 million in revenue (according to its IRS form 990 from 2005).

A logical question about Granholm's selection might be whether Ahmed's leadership skills will transfer to a much larger organization of 10,000 employees and a \$4 billion budget. State Sen. Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, thinks he will.

But if conservative blogger Debbie Schlussel has her way, it's not his skill set or scope of the state agency that's the issue. Schlussel, a local political activist, devotes most of her Web site to anti-Arab commentary. Last week, she attacked Ahmed and ACCESS for everything from allegedly having terrorist ties to being involved in Medicaid fraud. Her blog has led to e-mails and letters to many state senators attacking Granholm's choice. ([Click here](#) for an example.)

Technically, the state Senate can reject Granholm's choice. But that's frankly unlikely. Besides, the Senate already signed off on Ahmed's appointment to the Eastern Michigan University board earlier this year.

And ACCESS is probably one of the best-known nonprofits in Southeast Michigan. Since 1983, it has been a go-to place for Arabs and non-Arabs seeking help in everything from learning English to job training and health care access. In 2000, it was selected as *Crain's* "Best Managed Nonprofit" among agencies with budgets of more than \$3 million.

ACCESS has also stayed secular within an Arab-American and Middle Eastern community that is splintered in so many different religious and ethnic ways. It also received a Point of Light award from President George H.W. Bush.

Schlussel has twisted information about ACCESS, the governor's office said last week. ACCESS actually cooperated with federal agents investigating Medicaid fraud allegations against a local doctor who was not an ACCESS employee.

"I'm a Jewish senator, and I am very comfortable with Ish's appointment," Jacobs said last week. "I think the blog has done an injustice to the process. It's venomous."

In many ways, the Web is like the wild, wild West of communication. Rumors and innuendo can spread, undocumented, but appear as "fact." Let the reader beware.

The Arab American

Profiles of Success:

Ahmed named to head DHS for Michigan



By: M. Kay Siblani / Editor

2007-08-18

DEARBORN — Governor Jennifer M. Granholm this week announced the appointment of Ismael Ahmed to director of the Michigan Department of Human Services. Ahmed is a 1975 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education and a minor in sociology.

Ahmed, co-founder of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, has labored there for over 32 years. His name is virtually synonymous with the organization. He began it in 1972 with 12 employees in an office rented for \$250. He was appointed executive director in 1983.

Today, ACCESS is the largest Arab American human services organization in the United States, offering over 90 different programs with more than 900,000 client contacts annually.

Ahmed has also worked closely with New Detroit, Inc. and co-founded the popular annual Concert of Colors. Under his direction, the National Arab American Museum in Dearborn was also established, the first in the country.

In his new role, Ahmed will lead the state's second largest agency. The Michigan Department of Human Services' nearly 10,000 employees administer a \$4 billion-plus annual budget, including the federal TANF grant and Food Assistance Program. The DHS is the state's child and family services agency and administers child and adult protective services, foster care, adoptions, juvenile justice, domestic violence, Medicaid and child support programs. Its staff serves 1.5 million medical assistance cases and 1.2 million cash and food assistance cases statewide.

"Ismael has a wealth of experience responding to the needs of people, and we are so fortunate to have someone with his leadership skills and compassion moving the Department of Human Services forward," Granholm said. "Ismael shares our goals of encouraging strong families and helping citizens become self-sufficient, and we look forward to his leadership on these issues and more."

The son of an Egyptian father and Lebanese American mother, Ahmed worked on a cargo ship in his early life. He gained valuable experiences traveling around the globe seeing different cultures and people. Although he was fascinated by the world's diversity, he was also troubled by the extreme degrees of poverty and class distinctions he witnessed. In a visit to Korea, he began to question America's role in the world as well.

Ahmed served stateside in the military and after an honorable discharge, vigorously protested the Vietnam war. It was around that time that he also began lobbying for the rights of Arab Americans. The rest, as they say, is history.

"I am honored that Governor Granholm has given me the opportunity to serve in this important role," Ahmed said in a press release. "The Department of Human Services does so much to bring help and hope to people in need; as director, I look forward to working with the department and its partners to reduce poverty and improve the lives of children and vulnerable adults in our state. I am particularly interested in building and strengthening the statewide and local collaborations established under Marianne Udow, which can expand the ability of government to reduce poverty, help citizens support their families, and protect children and vulnerable adults."

"Poverty and illiteracy are both enemies of civil rights, and whoever suffers from these two ailments will struggle in attaining his civil rights," Ahmed said recently in an interview with "The Arab American News."

His priorities as head of DHS will be to "shine a light on the situation here in terms of poverty," he said. "We need to tap our own conscience and bring those who don't have to those making the decisions."

He also cited the situation of the child welfare system in the state. "Several children in the care of the state have died recently," he said. And he

observed that reorganizing and upgrading that system of care needs to be done based not on ideology but in terms of the outcomes of care.

A third priority will be reimbursement issues. He said that more federal dollars are available than what the state has been getting and accessing them has been hampered by ineptitude.

And Ahmed has a special interest in three other areas under the DHS banner: refugee resettlement, migrant issues and Native American rights.

Ahmed has three and a half years to work on these problems. He realizes that the economy is going to be the biggest obstacle in his path and that the normal politics that go on may prove some problems intractable. But just as he did with ACCESS, he intends to devote his life during these years to whatever he can accomplish.

First, of course, he has to be confirmed by the state senate. He doesn't anticipate problems. "There are the usual people out there who have dogged Arab Americans all along, and they are working overtime to defeat me." But he fully expects to be confirmed.

Many in this community are wondering what will happen to the institutions Ahmed has fostered. "You know, people think the leaders of an organization do the work. But there are 300 people here who really do the work. And 1000 volunteers. ACCESS has grown into an important, capable institution. Our institutions must live beyond the leaders who founded them. We feel good that we have a whole set of new leaders that will emerge and grow."

"ACCESS has also developed strong relationships with other local and national advocacy groups that Ahmed said will continue to serve the organization well.

As he departs ACCESS, Ahmed has a clear idea of the institution's priorities moving ahead.

"First, we want to conduct a governance reform campaign that will ensure open and transparent governance and that there be a continual changing of the guard. Many of us have been here 32 years. We need new blood.

"Secondly, we need an internal good service campaign, to ensure the quality of our service and our workplace culture.

"Third, the quality of the services we deliver must be the highest possible.

"Stabilizing the National Arab American Museum is another high priority. We need to establish an endowment fund. We need to raise \$5,000,000 over the next year. The museum's reputation is growing and we want it to be national in its scope and impact." The endowment fund is important, because operating expenses cannot be covered by membership or entrance fees alone.

Stabilizing the institution's infrastructure is another immediate priority. In this interview Ahmed announced that the entire Southend campus at Dix and Vernor will be rebuilt, beginning soon. "All buildings will be stabilized and renovated and we will add to the campus a new youth facility that will cost \$4-5.5 million dollars. About half the money has been raised. The new youth facility will include all kinds of sports."

Finally, ACCESS wants to strengthen the National Network of Arab American Communities. There are currently 15 organizations in 11 states tied together in the network. They share information and resources. Six to eight more are ready to join. "This is a 20-year project," Ahmed acknowledged. "But this kind of network can be the pivotal base for future Arab American activism."

That's a mighty tall agenda. But ACCESS leaders are not worried.

"We are in the fortunate position of having skilled staff and leaders who will be able to maintain the high level of services during this period of transition," said Noel Saleh, president of the ACCESS board of directors.

Hassan Jaber, ACCESS COO, will pick up the duties as executive director. Jaber has had long years of experience and has been responsible for developing various social and legal programs, and administering the organization's immigration and advocacy services. He is a major proponent for the advancement of ACCESS' development in the departments of mental and community health, employment his avid support for ushering in the next generation has helped to expand ACCESS' youth and education services. He led strategic planning for the entire organization and has maintained national and international relationships.

08/19/2007

Op-Ed

New human services director is a perfect fit

DEARBORN — Ismael Ahmed has a Middle-Eastern name, but is about as completely American as can be imagined. Born in Brooklyn in 1947, he moved to Detroit when he was 6.

He graduated from a working-class high school and did a hitch in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army, mostly in Korea.

Afterward, he worked on the line in an auto plant, got involved with the union, and then found his true calling in community work. He worked his way through college, married a teacher and had five kids.

Eventually, seeing that nobody was doing much for his particular community, he co-founded and then ran ACCESS. That's an acronym for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services.

Today, ACCESS is a vast and highly successful human services organization, which runs 90 programs and services thousands of people, and does it all on donations and private funds.

So it wasn't much of a surprise when, last week, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced that she was appointing Ahmed director of the Michigan Department of Human Services, replacing Marianne Udow, who voluntarily left to take a private sector job.

That move won the governor widespread praise. For those in the know, the move was widely seen as possibly her best cabinet appointment since taking office. Ahmed has proven, time and again, that he can get the job done, regardless of what it was.

He's run major cultural events, notably the Concert of Colors; built bridges between black and Arab communities; and has been a major behind-the-scenes player in Democratic party politics.

People were openly skeptical when ACCESS announced plans to build a world-class National Arab American Museum. "Ish," as everyone calls him, smiled, went to work and raised \$20 million.

Today, the gleaming museum on Dearborn's Michigan Avenue has become one of the state's leading cultural attractions. That's the kind of innovative leadership people say they want from state government. Yet a few people were upset at his appointment.

For not only is Ahmed a proud American, he is a proud Arab — and a Muslim. Arab-Americans have held office in Michigan before, most notably former U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham.

But as far as anyone knows, he will be the highest-ranking Muslim in state history. That is important, he



**By Jack
Lessenberry
Columnist**
Bucca@
aol.com

believes.

"I know that the governor chose me because she knew I could do the job," he said. "But the fact that I am an Arab-American and my family is Muslim will be an important icon for the community in these times of post-Sept. 11."

What he wants to do in his cabinet post, however, is get the entire state's attention directed toward those who need help. "My goal is to shine a spotlight on the issue of need," he said.

"There are more than a million people in Michigan who lack some of the basic necessities of life. We really have to get the resources to address these needs, and we have to find some long-term solutions," he said in an interview at his ACCESS office.

"It's going to take more money, and its also going to take more innovation at the department and from other places."

Trouble is, Michigan is facing the mother of all budget crises — a \$1.8 billion deficit — and there is every indication the Department of Human Services may have less, rather than more, money to work with.

He thinks that's a case of misplaced priorities.

"Our average social worker in the state has a case load of about 800 people a month. How can you do that and provide quality services?"

He is hoping to raise the public's consciousness, to get them to see beyond themselves. That may sound pie-in-the sky, but those who know him say Ahmed has an uncanny ability to defuse tensions and inspire people to action at the same time.

Though officially he doesn't start his new job till Sept. 10, he is in a sense already working on it full-time. The Michigan Senate has to confirm his appointment within 90 days.

That is expected to be a pro forma process, despite the efforts of a local Ann Coulter wannabe who is vigorously spewing out hatred on a series of blogs. (She calls Ahmed an "Islamofascist." He declines to dignify her comments with a response.) He does regret having to give up his position as a regent with Eastern Michigan University.

With the state budget in crisis, and ACCESS doing very well, did he have second thoughts about jumping into the fire?

"I had to admit, I had reservations," he confessed. "But this was a chance to go from helping thousands of people to helping millions."

Contact Jack Lessenberry at Bucca@aol.com or write to him at 189 Manoogian Hall, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 48202.

Copyright 1998-2007 Traverse City Record-Eagle

Crain's Detroit Business

August 20, 2007

On the move

- **Teresa Bingman**, Gov. **Jennifer Granholm**'s deputy chief of staff for policy and strategic initiatives and cabinet secretary, said she would resign Aug. 17 to pursue interests in the private sector focusing on economic development and urban revitalization.

- Gov. Jennifer Granholm confirmed Monday that she has appointed **Ismael Ahmed**, co-founder and executive director of the **Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services**, to succeed **Marianne Udow** as director of the **Michigan Department of Human Services** effective Sept. 10.

Crain's first reported that Ahmed's appointment was planned Aug 8.

State must turn over unedited documents on foster kids

August 17, 2007

By JACK KRESNAK

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A federal judge today ordered the state to produce confidential records of foster children without editing the documents.

The Michigan Department of Human Services had sought to redact – or obscure – the names and identifying information of other people, including other foster children, mentioned in DHS files for six children. The six are the named plaintiffs in a class action against the state brought by Children’s Rights, a New York-based advocacy group.

Advertisement

U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Donald Scheer heard oral arguments on Children’s Rights’ request for the documents last week.

In an 11-page order released today, Scheer said that, with proper safeguards, Children’s Rights could have the documents that “are essential to the determination of the issues in this case.”

Scheer also issued a protective order that prohibits Children’s Rights or the experts it uses to examine the files from releasing confidential information to anyone not a party to the lawsuit.

At the conclusion of the case, Children’s Rights has 180 days to return the documents and any copies to the DHS, and a year later must destroy its case notes or summaries of the files.

Scheer ordered the state to give Children’s Rights copies of the files by Sept. 15.

A trial on the lawsuit is scheduled for June 3 before U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com.

Find this article at:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070817/NEWS06/70817055/1008>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

A federal judge Friday ordered Michigan officials to let an advocacy group examine case files involving foster children who have died in recent years while under state care.

The Michigan Department of Human Services said it would obey the order by Donald A. Scheer, a U.S. District Court magistrate judge in Detroit. Scheer approved a motion seeking the information, filed by New York-based Children's Rights.

"The court's ruling today tells the state that it cannot hide behind confidentiality laws designed to protect children in order to shield itself from public scrutiny," said Sara Bartosz, attorney for the group.

Children's Rights is suing the state over the quality of its child protection program, contending it is riddled with inadequate resources and poor services. That has resulted in substandard physical and mental care and foster children repeatedly being moved between homes, the August 2006 complaint says.

Two of the most high profile cases in Michigan are those of Ricky Holland and Isaac Lethbridge.

In the Lethbridge case, the 2-year-old was beaten to death while in a Detroit foster home last summer.

This year, his former foster mother was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and is serving 5 1/2 to 15 years in prison.

In the Holland case, the child's adoptive parents, who initially had been his foster parents, were eventually sentenced for murdering him and then hiding the body. He was 7 years old when he died.

The group requested records involving six living children named as plaintiffs, in addition to 68 children who have died while in state care since 2004, a spokeswoman said. The class-action lawsuit represents all 19,000 Michigan children in the system.

State officials argued that privacy laws required them to withhold or edit documents to prevent release of information that could identify children, foster parents and biological parents.

In his ruling, Scheer said the advocacy group's need to evaluate the department's performance outweighed the state's confidentiality concerns.

Find this article at:

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070818/POLITICS/708180374>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

[<<Back](#)

Judge orders Michigan to release documents in foster care case

A federal judge Friday ordered Michigan officials to let an advocacy group examine case files involving foster children who have died in recent years while under state care.

The Michigan Department of Human Services said it would obey the order by Donald A. Scheer, a U.S. District Court magistrate judge in Detroit. Scheer approved a motion seeking the information, filed by New York-based Children's Rights.

"The court's ruling today tells the state that it cannot hide behind confidentiality laws designed to protect children in order to shield itself from public scrutiny," said Sara Bartosz, attorney for the group.

Children's Rights is suing the state over the quality of its child protection program, contending it is riddled with inadequate resources and poor services. That has resulted in substandard physical and mental care and foster children repeatedly being moved between homes, the August 2006 complaint says.

The group requested records involving six living children named as plaintiffs, in addition to 68 children who have died while in state care since 2004, a spokeswoman said. The class-action lawsuit represents all 19,000 Michigan children in the system.

State officials argued that privacy laws required them to withhold or edit documents to prevent release of information that could identify children, foster parents and biological parents. Case files typically include material such as Social Security numbers and medical and psychological records, said Maureen Sorbet, spokeswoman for the Department of Human Services.

In his ruling, Scheer said the advocacy group's need to evaluate the department's performance outweighed the state's confidentiality concerns.

The law allows release of personal information when doing so "will promote the best interests of the children involved, the proper function and oversight of the system, or the interests of justice," Scheer said.

In a separate order, he instructed all those involved in the suit to protect confidential information from leaking.

"We will, of course, comply with the order," Sorbet said.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and WOODTV. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Detroit Free Press

STATEWIDE: State must hand over foster documents

A federal judge ordered the state Friday to produce confidential records of foster children, without editing the documents.

The Michigan Department of Human Services had sought to redact the names and identifying information mentioned in DHS files for six children. The six are the named plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against the state brought by Children's Rights, an advocacy group.

The suit accuses the state of violating the civil rights of 19,000 foster kids by not giving adequate services or finding permanent homes.

In an order released Friday, U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Donald Scheer said that, with proper safeguards, Children's Rights could have the documents. A trial on the suit is scheduled for June 3.



ourMidland.com
from the Midland Daily News

08/19/2007

2007 another successful year for Magic Ride

By [Noel Lyn Smith](#)

Magic Ride continued its mission to help raise money for efforts to prevent child abuse.

Event organizer Karen Adams estimated this year's ride raised more than \$10,000. Proceeds go to fund programs at Safe & Sound Child Advocacy Center, a volunteer organization devoted to preventing child abuse and improving the quality of life for children in Midland County.

"The people who have been out here are for the kids," said Adams, who is also the center's executive director. "Their hearts are here to keep kids safe."

Participants either biked, walked, ran or skated on the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail of Mid-Michigan in Saturday's event.

Members from the Midland Amateur Radio Club gave away fruit and water at rest stops along the rail-trail.

Bike riders Cathy Taylor-Murray and Charlie Murray were enjoying lunch after completing their 30-mile ride. The couple raised \$504 for the center. They left at 9:15 a.m. and returned close to 1 p.m., which did not bother them.

"It's more about riding for the cause," Murray said.

Another bike riding couple, Nancy and Darrell Eagle, rode 41.1 miles.

They try to participate in Magic Ride each year and were wearing T-shirts from the 2000 event. Their white shirts had a child's drawing along with the words, "I love the magic around me."

The Eagles said they remember when the event was held at Delta College before being moved to its current location.

"They tried to lose us, but we always found them," Darrell Eagle said jokingly.

Wearing this year's blue Magic Ride T-shirt, Michael Adomeit was on stage to introduce one of the bands, Foley Loaded.

Adomeit's mother, Ruth, brought Magic Ride to Midland in 1993. It was the first Magic Ride outside of Lansing.

Midland's Magic Ride is the only one continuing in Michigan, he said.

In addition to Foley Loaded, music was provided by Loose Cannons, Slippery Returns and The Smokin' Crawdaddy Band. Each band donated its time for the event, Adomeit said.

Advertisement

Downtown Midland
A great place to be you.

da Benchi

Hot Seats in a Cool City

Print, complete and turn in the daBenchi
Ballot for a chance to win prizes!
Details at www.downtownmidland.com



\$5.00 TUESDAYS
MOST TICKETS JUST
\$5.00. ALL DAY LONG!

839-0100
6540 Cinema Dr.
Midland
www.NCGmovies.com

©Midland Daily News 2007



Child-protection agency often out of line

Sunday, August 19, 2007

JACKSON -- I am responding to the Aug. 8 letter in which S. Bradford Williams said he was offended by a statement from Judge Mazur.

First, I say kudos to Judge Mazur and his comment about Children's Protective Services. I am appalled that Mr. Williams would try to say the state cares and that his job is one of the toughest jobs in Michigan. How dare he use poor, little Ricky Holland as an example of what could happen if they don't step in. What a crock! Truth of the matter is, Protective Services did intervene but failed to do its job properly.

The problem with Protective Services is that it lets people who clearly need its services just get away with what they want while people who clearly do not need them to be involved in their lives have to endure constant harassment. I know there are children who are in dire need of help from Protective Services, but it's time the agency starts doing its job properly.

Over the past few months I have read in this paper about children who have been abused. If Protective Services was doing its job properly, then why is it just about every week that the public reads about an abuse case?

I am sorry, but I honestly don't believe that Protective Services is all that great, and I think its workers often get their priorities mixed up.

-- Tammie Downard

©2007 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

Police arrest teen after 2 robberies with violence

Police say other youths involved

Saturday, August 18, 2007

BY AMALIE NASH

Ann Arbor News Assistant Metro Editor

Authorities say a 14-year-old boy and several friends committed at least two violent robberies in Ypsilanti this month, beating pizza delivery drivers with a flashlight while stealing their food and cash.

The teenager was arrested Thursday, and detectives are attempting to identify the others involved.

Police Chief Matt Harshberger said Friday that both robberies were nearly identical - pizza delivery drivers were called to abandoned homes and then attacked.

In the first case earlier this month on Madison Street, the driver said he was tackled and struck in the back of the head with an object that police later identified as a flashlight.

The second robbery occurred Wednesday night, when a driver was called to a home on South Adams Street. The driver told police a man on the porch said he didn't have any money. When the driver turned to leave, he was attacked.

Harshberger said a tip led detectives to the 14-year-old suspect, believed to be the ringleader of the group. He is being held at the juvenile detention center, Harshberger said.

Harshberger said the 14-year-old lives near the scene of one of the robberies, and police are attempting to determine if the group has committed any other recent crimes in the area. The group includes at least two other boys and possibly two girls, Harshberger said.

Neither driver was seriously injured, police said.



Muskegon Chronicle

Teen arrested with 'bat bomb,' shotgun after mom's search

Saturday, August 18, 2007

By Lisa Medendorp

lmedendorp@muskegonchronicle.com

A Fruitport Township teen has been charged in juvenile court with making a pipe bomb from a metal baseball bat and possessing a sawed-off shotgun.

Other items -- including knives, daggers, a metal police-type baton and "multiple" realistic-looking pellet guns -- also were confiscated by police after the 15-year-old boy's mother found the gun and the bomb in his room, police reported.

Brent Holtz, of 2535 Briar, remained lodged in the Muskegon County Juvenile Detention Center Friday in lieu of \$10,000 cash bail.

Holtz was charged with the criminal offenses Tuesday during a Family Court preliminary hearing before Referee Gerald Gibbs. A pre-trial conference has been set for Aug. 30.

The Michigan State Police Bomb Squad was called Monday to dismantle the explosive device, which consisted of the rounded end of an aluminum baseball bat stuffed with paper, gunpowder and "small arms bullets," a police report said.

The bat had been sealed with duct tape, caulked, and had a fuse that appeared to have been made with a candle wick.

A Fruitport Township report indicated that State Police believed the device was "capable of causing great bodily harm and/or significant damage to property."

The pipe bomb, shotgun and several other items actually were discovered on Saturday when the boy's mother and her boyfriend went into the teen's bedroom to look for a shotgun that was missing from a gun cabinet.

The boy was kicked out of the home Saturday and went to live with his father in Norton Shores, the report said.

However, the boy's mother didn't call police until around noon Monday. After making initial contact Monday, police returned to the Briar Road home later with a search warrant.

A police report indicated that during that search an officer found what appeared to be the makings of at least one other homemade bomb. The officer noted a large assortment of pellet guns, including two of them that looked like real guns.

During an interview, Holtz told police he would "never hurt anyone," and that he had wanted to make a device that would shoot paper up in the air like a "Roman candle."

He was taken into custody Monday at his father's home, 1441 Kingston, which also was searched with a warrant.

©2007 Muskegon Chronicle

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published August 19, 2007

Highfields alum reflects on experience

By CHRISTIE BLECK
Lansing Community Newspapers

ONONDAGA — Eleven months of Ryan Goleniak's life helped determine the direction he would take in his career.

From Aug. 6, 1993 to July 1, 1994, the Westland native who attended — although not has much as he should have — Wayne Memorial High School, was a resident at Highfields in Onondaga, the family and children's service agency.

Goleniak admitted to getting into a "little trouble."

"I started being truant from school," he said.

Although skipping class is not the worst thing a boy could do, Goleniak said his parents thought a few weeks at Highfields would do him good.

That few weeks stretched into almost a year.

Goleniak said he was angry at the time, but the situation had its advantages.

"It kept me away from a lot of people I was hanging out with," he said.

So, Goleniak had no choice but to, literally, go with the program.

It turned out not to be that bad. Goleniak said the staff was "cool," and not being considered a runaway threat, he was able to go outside the facility. He also played basketball in the gymnasium and, more importantly, came away with a grade point average of 3.8.

It wasn't all work. In an interview for the internal newsletter at ITT Technical Institute in Canton, where Goleniak now works as an admissions representative, Goleniak said his activities at Highfields included a hiking trip just north of Toronto, a 10-day canoe trip at the Boundary Waters in Minnesota and playing on the flag football team.

He also learned a lot from Highfields.

"I learned how to say no to a lot of my friends when they wanted to get into some trouble," Goleniak was quoted as saying. "I reflected on what I went through and decided to turn the other way. I learned how to respect my family. I knew that my family will be and always was by my side."

The change wasn't immediate. After his stint at Highfields, Goleniak went back to Wayne Memorial,

something that didn't go as well as it could have. Hanging around with the same friends as before, he started "skipping school like an idiot," falling into the same trap.

Goleniak, though, eventually earned his GED. He also got an associate's degree from ITT in computer and electronics engineering technology.

Goleniak is four classes away from an associate's degree in computer networking systems, is a member of the National Technical Honor Society and founder of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in computers and drafting.

Goleniak recently went back to Highfields to talk about his experience at the facility, which in 2006 ran into trouble after state and Ingham County judges pulled 33 kids from the residential program because of abuse.

The Michigan Department of Human Services eventually restored full-license status to Highfields, Ind., after some top executives and staff were removed or fired.

Goleniak said when he stayed at Highfields, "There was more abuse from the kids onto the staff than the staff onto the kids."

"He talked mostly about school and how we can make ourselves better," said Alex, a student in Highfields' residential Phoenix Program. "He motivated and encouraged us to make ourselves better people. Ryan said just because you got into trouble doesn't mean that you can't do well in life, like go to college and make good money. He was pretty cool to listen to."

Goleniak said he hoped talking to Highfields' current residents would help them take the right path in life.

"They call me the professional student around here now," he said.

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)

Grant will help Tribe fight domestic violence

By MARK RANZENBERGER
Morning Sun Staff Writer

August 20, 2007

A share of \$2 million worth of federal grant money is on its way to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to combat domestic violence.

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales announced the grants last week when he met with leaders of Michigan's 12 federally recognized Tribes.

"The challenges of Indian Country are American challenges – from violent crime to drug abuse, no neighborhood is immune to these blights – but sometimes the federal government's approach needs to be specifically tailored to Indian Tribes," Gonzales said. "Tribes are in a legally unique situation because of their status as sovereigns. Each Tribe has a unique culture that must be considered as well."

The grants, through the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women, will go to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Saginaw Chippewa Indians, and the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe Women's Advisory Committee.

A breakdown of the grants by agency was not immediately available.

According to a Justice Department statement, the money is aimed at decreasing the incidence of violent crime against Native women, providing legal and housing assistance to Native victims of domestic violence, strengthening the capacity of Tribes to exercise sovereign authority to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women, and to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Native women are held accountable for their criminal behavior.

"A plan was discussed to enable tribes to have access to court convictions from other Tribes," Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council member Michelle

Stanley said. "This secure, expanded database would also give authorities access to personal protection orders and homeland security information to reduce exposure to repeat offenders."

Native American women are among those most likely to be the victims of domestic violence, according to the Justice Department.

"It's no secret that in Indian Country, that's one of our top challenges," said Tribal spokesman Frank Cloutier, who met with Gonzales as a Native journalist for the Tribe's Tribal Observer newspaper.

Cultural destruction and alcohol abuse are among the factors that have led to high rates of domestic violence and abuse in Native families, according to experts.

"Mr. Gonzales shared his feelings on the disintegration of families and the importance of raising kids to believe great things are possible," Stanley said. "He discussed how prevention programs could have a major impact on our children's self esteem."

Gonzales said the grants are to be used to improve to victim assistance services. The Saginaw Tribe's Behavioral Health program recently opened the Nami Migizi Nangwiihgan facility and shelter. The Anishinabemowin name means "under the eagle's wings."

"The Department of Justice recognizes that funding alone will never solve all the challenges facing Indian Country law enforcement," Gonzales said. "What is more important is a sustained commitment to cooperation among Tribal, state and federal law enforcement agencies, with efforts targeted to the needs and unique circumstances of the individual communities."

Cloutier said Tribal leaders came away from the meeting with the attorney general with a clearer understanding of the Justice Department's commitment to help solve some of the problems of Indian Country.



THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

LACASA's 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' spotlights violence

Friday, August 17, 2007

News Staff Reporter

LACASA is encouraging men in Livingston County to participate in a march to make the county and the country a safer place for women.

"The Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence" also known as "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" takes place Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Tanger Outlet Center near Howell. The event was launched last year for the first time and LACASA was pleased with the response.

"We thought we'd raise several thousand dollars and ended up making almost \$14,000," says Julie Smith, development director at LACASA. "We're shooting higher this year."

The Men's March will be led by men in heels followed by men wearing other types of women's shoes, followed by men, women and children wearing sensible shoes.

"People can expect to laugh a lot," says Smith. "Last year the guys who walked had as much fun as those of us who were watching. It's such a good cause."

Funds from last year's inaugural march were used to provide free and confidential shelter and support to survivors of sexual violence. More than 40 men participated, and LACASA hopes to double that number this year, and also has a number of teams signed up.

Participant Steve Schuknecht works for the Tanger Outlet Center, which is the major sponsor of the men's march.

"It's a small amount of discomfort to bear for the good we can do to bring awareness to a problem that happens right here in this county," says Schuknecht.

Lane Bryant, one of the stores at the Tanger Outlet Center, which carries larger-size women's shoes, is offering a special deal. If a man purchases his women's shoes there and tells them that he's participating in the men's march, Lane Bryant will donate an equal amount to LACASA.

National statistics indicate one in six American women is a victim of sexual assault. LACASA is now in its 26th year, and its mission is to help victims of sexual assault as well as domestic violence and child abuse, while educating the community and encouraging positive action.

Lisa Carolin can be reached at lc Carolin@livingstoncommunitynews.com or at 810-844-2010.

©2007 Ann Arbor News

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



Hair stylists aim to cut domestic violence numbers

Monday, August 20, 2007

By Juanita Westaby

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Susan Suuta sees all the ones she overlooked -- all those subtle cues that the client in her stylist's chair was suffering from domestic violence.

"I can look back and see there were so many women I missed," said Suuta, the owner of Studio Q Salon in Plainfield Township. "I just wasn't aware."

If she has her way, at least 30 local stylists will be armed with insight and reference materials for the next time.

"We know that women, most of the time, will trust to tell only a few people (about their abuse)," said Jennifer Marcum, executive director of Safe Haven Ministries.

Surveys show that they trust their doctor, their pastor and their hair stylist, Marcum said.

Suuta said she knows first hand what it's like to be in an abusive relationship -- she trusted her pastor and was referred to Safe Haven Ministries in 1999.

"They helped me out; they educated me; they provided counseling and shelter," she said. "They helped me to regain my self-confidence."

Suuta left the abuse behind, going back to work after nine years at home with young children.

She volunteered to help Safe Haven find stylists willing to undergo the one-hour training that will show them what signs to look for, what questions to ask, and how to suggest a referral.

"This is a way for me to share my story," Suuta said. "I'm a survivor. And there's help out there."

Now that she's undergone the training, she said she spots problems.

"Absolutely," she said. "It just happened last month."

"A lot of us stereotype that (abuse is) black and blue. But it's emotional, social, and financial, too. I gave this woman a pamphlet. She was confused and doubting. There is a lot of confusion. You know, you're supposed to hope and to love and to pray.

"She really didn't identify that she was being abused."

Sometimes, it's a matter of just getting them to talk, Marcum said.

©2007 Grand Rapids Press

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

Murder charge to be sought in woman's death

Monday, August 20, 2007

By Rex Hall Jr.

rhall@kalamazoogazette.com 388-7784

A murder charge will be sought in connection with the suspected abuse of an elderly Portage woman who died Friday, police said this morning.

Margaret Diamante, 87, who died at Borgess Nursing Home, had been hospitalized since Aug. 5, when a family member reported that she was going in and out of consciousness at her home in the 3700 block of Woodbridge Lane.

Diamante's injuries included trauma to the back of her head that caused internal bleeding, investigators have said. She also had bruising to her chest, face, arms and legs.

A preliminary autopsy performed Saturday showed that a brain injury was the primary cause of Diamante's death, Sgt. John Blue said. He said police planned to submit the case today for review by the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office.

No arrests have been made in the case, but police said they have a "person of interest" in the suspected assault.

Blue said police continue to investigate whether there was a pattern of abuse or Diamante's injuries, discovered Aug. 5, were from an isolated incident. Earlier this month, Blue said the initial investigation showed there were signs of abuse and battery.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at (269) 329-4567 or Silent Observer at (269) 343-2100.

©2007 Kalamazoo

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

Child care: making the perfect match

By Sally Barber, Cadillac News

Families seeking child care will discover several available options. The trick to finding the best alternative for your family is to stay focused on your needs.

"Different families have different values," said Kathy Nolan Butler, 4C Child Care coordinator. "You need to keep an open mind and be informed."

In Wexford and Missaukee counties, there are 102 licensed family day care homes and centers. Five categories of child care offer a variety of settings and educational opportunities. Centers include preschools and before- and after-school programs. Group day care homes employ two or more adults and are licensed for up to 12 children. In family day care homes, one provider cares for one to six children. Other options are relative care or a day care aide employed in your home.

When cost is a factor, parents may wish to explore available financial assistance. The Department of Human Services provides aids for low-income families. Families failing to meet the DHS income requirements may be eligible for a one time ChildCare Commitment grant provided through the Michigan 4C Association. Eligible families receive up to 40 percent of the average annual cost of child care for one child per family for 12 months.

The regional 4C office can provide selection guidelines and financial assistance information. Call 1-866-4CHILDCARE to learn more.

From the side of the room, two mothers observe their daughters busy at play. The lights dim, signalling cleanup time for the dozen busy preschoolers at Joyful Hearts Early Learning Center. When the toys are put away, the children line up for outdoor time.

Both moms are in the market for a child care provider. Angelena Muellenberg wants to place her daughter, an only child, in an environment where she can experience stimulating activities and gain socialization skills she will need for school.

"I'm visiting here to see what interactions go on," Muellenberg said. "It helps you feel more confident."

Sonya Koperski is looking to place her 3-year-old in a setting where she can develop friendships and enjoy new experiences.

"I want a structured preschool environment," she said. "A place that's clean and organized."

These parents are doing exactly what child care advocates recommend. They are visiting facilities to obtain a first-hand look at programming, care and provider personalities. Other considerations are caregiver references and educational background, flexibility of hours, costs, the ratio of caregiver to child, caregiver attitude and atmosphere.

"It's a subjective decision. What works well for one family may not work for another," said Kathy Nolan Butler, 4C Child Care Coordinator. "Parents should follow their gut instincts. They know their child better than anyone."

The child care center typically provides a more structured setting.

"They don't just learn their a,b,c's and one, two, three's," said Jayne Foster, director at Joyful Hearts. "They learn to stand in line and things they need to know to go to kindergarten and they build independence."

A family day care provides a different set of advantages.

"The younger kids learn from the older ones," said Bette Bednarick, family day care provider in Cadillac. "Some younger kids learn to talk at an earlier age because of it and learn skills from the older children."

At the same time, older children may learn responsibilities by interacting with younger children.

Whether a parent selects family day care, a center or other options, visiting the facility will provide insight into how well the program matches the child's needs.

For a list of licensed providers in your neighborhood, go to www.cis.state.mi.us/brs_cdc/sr_lfl.asp.

Your local connection

Facility check-list

- Is it bright, clean and pleasant?
- Are there separate areas for rest and play?
- Is the space for activities sufficient?
- Is the outdoor play area fenced and in full view of the caretaker?
- Are there sufficient toys and learning materials?
- Are the toys and learning materials safe?

Caregivers and you

- Are the caregivers trained in CPR, first aid and child development?
- What are the discipline policies and do you agree with them?
- Will you be told what your child did every day?
- Are unscheduled visits from parents encouraged?
- Can parents get involved and are their ideas welcome?

Source: Michigan Association for Child Care Providers

sbarber@cadillacnews.com 775-NEWS (6397)

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **battlecreekenquirer.com**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Aug 18, 2007

Take-A-Break gives stressed parents respite

Trace Christenson

The Enquirer

Three or four times a week, parents need help from the Take-A-Break Child Care Center in Battle Creek.

"If you just have had it with kids and can't tolerate it anymore, we are usually able to help with them," said Nancy French, co-executive director of the center at 1321 W. Michigan Ave. "We have respite care if you just need to get away."

The center is the only one in Calhoun County that can take children when an immediate crisis occurs for their parents or care providers, according to French and Marylou Bax, program director for the child care center.

The two women explained their service after two children died in recent weeks in Battle Creek and Marshall while in the care of their mothers' boyfriends. And while it's not clear if the deaths were the result of a violent outburst by the caregiver, long-term abuse or some other cause, Bax said Take-A-Break is available for adults who need time away from their children.

The respite care for up to five children is part of the child care operation for 35 children, ages two weeks to 12 years.

Bax said most emergency placements are referrals from S.A.F.E. Place, a shelter for domestic violence victims; Child Protective Services; foster care families; or other institutions.

Sometimes parents call because they have an unexpected immediate need for child care because of doctor's appointments, change in work schedules or unavailability of regular child care providers.

"But sometimes they call and say, 'I need a break. I love them but ...' Bax said. "We have about three a month where they have that kind of crisis."

Trace Christenson can be reached at 966-0685 or tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com.

Robert Pedersen's Eyewitness Account of this Weekend's Rally in Washington DC

Posted By [Glenn Sacks](#) On August 19, 2007 @ 7:56 pm In [Vox Populi](#) | [3 Comments](#)

This weekend the "Bringing Children and Families Back Together" rally was held at the National Mall in Washington DC. Last week I asked Jennifer Kuhn, a

men's and fathers' activist, to write me an eyewitness account of the rally. Jen is critical of the rally, and her report is posted. Below, Robert Pedersen, a rally supporter and participant, responds to Jennifer.



"Jennifer Kuhn should have stayed longer at this historic event and it is clear that her 'eye witness' account only included the opening portion of the rally. The number of people present for the rally as cited by Jennifer is inaccurate at best. I am sure that there will be various accounts on this rally each with their own personal slant. Many wanted this rally to be a failure, however if it proved one thing it is that for the first time numerous organizations came together united to end the current state of madness. Many who are 'fathers' rights leaders' who profit from the current state of madness wanted this rally to fail. Many so called 'leaders' which people blindly follow did not donate a single penny to this rally or the Equal Parenting Bike Trek. Yet they want you to buy their DVDs and their services.

"Ronald Smith had an obligation to differentiate between the action by Fathers4Justice and the Family Preservation Rally. Not doing so could have cause the park service to pull the permit on the Family Preservation Rally. After Ronald Smith stated what he HAD to do, I did not see the Fathers4Justice people walk away from the Family Preservation Rally in protest of Ron's comments! In fact, they were some of Ron's strongest supporters.

"Why would Jennifer Kuhn EXPECT a father's rights rally when this rally never marketed itself as that. When one thinks of fathers' rights the first thing that comes to mind is child custody. Arguing the semantics of fathers' rights vs non-custodial parents rights seems counter-productive. Later in the evening many spoke with Fathers4Justice members and they seemed happy to be a part of this rally. They understood why the differentiation had to be made. This morning I spoke with two Fathers4Justice members that were excited about day 2.

"Jennifer states, 'The number of people who were at that rally as passersby that heard the statement were minimal...' How could this be a proper assessment when she admits in her own words that she left the rally early? I received a similar magazine and it was free? Jennifer must have been running through the tent area because there were MANY other things that people were selling for fundraising such as the book 'Friend of the Court Enemy of the Family' by Carol Rhodes!

"The rally did start with CPS and other issues and ended strong with equal parenting rights! Glenn Sacks is referred to as a 'Men's Columnist' or something close to that in the movie Support System Down. When Glenn writes about CPS abuses does this no longer make him friendly to 'father's rights'?"

"This rally was a success from the standpoint of bringing numerous groups together such as ACFC, Children's Rights Council, Dads and Moms of Michigan, Fathers4Justice, A Child's Right, Family Rights Coalition, CRISPE and so many more! Our Friday night meet and greet had more people than the Million Dad March has ever brought to Washington, D.C. We hope they join us next year!

"Even though the support of Fathers4Justice came late into the rally planning stages it was wonderful to see them there as well. The Equal Parenting Bike Trek Crew had awesome interactions with Fathers4Justice in their 700 mile quest to reach D.C. Once again certain people try to divide a movement that is picking up some serious momentum! Each year we will bring more and more people to the Lincoln Memorial."

[1]

[2] [The American Coalition for Fathers and Children](#)

The American Coalition for Fathers and Children is dedicated to creating a family law system which promotes equal rights for all parties affected by divorce. Contact the ACFC at 1-800-978-



— THE — ANN ARBOR NEWS

Hospice must reimburse Medicaid

Billing for incorrect level of service cost state \$205,000

Saturday, August 18, 2007

BY SUSAN L. OPPAT

News Staff Reporter

Arbor Hospice must reimburse the state Medicaid program \$205,000 for billing some of its patient services at a higher rate than allowed in 2002 and 2003.

"There was a disagreement over the intensity of care the patient requires and whether the care provided satisfied Medicaid," said Robert Asmussen, chairman of the nonprofit hospice board. He said the agency billed for the highest level of reimbursement, when it actually only qualified for the medium level of reimbursement.

Hospice President and CEO Gloria Danna Brooks said Medicaid auditors looked at about \$1 million in billings and found \$205,000 was overbilled.

No penalties other than reimbursement were called for, Brooks said.

Officials said Friday that they have not yet discussed where they'll get the money in their \$14 million budget.

Asmussen said the issue came up during an audit similar to others that the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), which administers federal Medicaid money, has been conducting at hospices throughout Southeast Michigan for several years. The findings were included in a letter to Arbor Hospice dated July 17.

Asmussen said MDCH has the right to return and look at additional billings from other years, but has made no effort to do that.

Also on Friday, hospice officials revealed that the agency's four-member billing staff was fired Aug. 9, after they admitted they had been falsifying signatures on Medicaid documents since 1999.

Asmussen said the two developments are unrelated.

Brooks said that senior management discovered the second issue on July 27, during one of several internal reviews she is conducting to familiarize herself with the agency after becoming its top administrator in mid-March.

Brooks said the improper signature procedure was used on Hospice Membership Notice forms, which notify the state that the hospice should be reimbursed for serving a patient who qualifies for Medicaid.

The form is one of several that must be filled out when a Medicaid patient enrolls in hospice. For reasons management can't explain, Brooks said, patients and their family or other witnesses weren't asked to sign the form during the enrollment process.

Instead, Brooks said, billing workers readily described how they actually cut original signatures of patients and witnesses from other documents the patients signed when they enrolled in the hospice service. The cut-out signatures were then glued to the Hospice Membership Notice.

The billing workers told management that they thought the document should be handled only by the billing department and were trying to avoid delays in payment that would result if the staff had to obtain the signatures by mail or make trips to the patients' homes.

Brooks said the practice began sporadically in 1999, when the billing supervisor was hired, but by 2004 all of the hospice membership notice forms contained the false signatures.

The document should simply have been included in the enrollment process that was conducted at most patients' homes when they signed up for hospice, she said.

The internal review showed there was no financial gain by either the employees or the hospice as a result of the improper signatures, Brooks said. All of the patients listed on the forms received services, and Medicaid was only billed for services that were actually provided, she said.

The review checked 112 records, or about 10 percent of all Medicaid cases since 1999.

Medicaid patients compose 10 to 15 percent of Arbor Hospice's caseload; about 80 percent are Medicare patients and the remainder are paid by private insurers.

MDCH spokesman T.J. Bucholz said state officials hope to decide in the next week or two what to do about the signature falsification issue. He declined further comment.

Asmussen said he isn't sure how the state will view the hospice's self-reporting of the falsified forms. His hope, he said, is that state officials will take the view that "ultimately it was wrong, but no harm, no foul. No one was advantaged by it. All the services were provided, and we were paid what was supposed to be paid and no more. We took care of the employees involved, and let's move on."

Brooks said that she believed the documents were falsified because of a culture that focuses on providing care for residents. "But making sure we are compliant with the law is about providing the best care," she said.

"We stand by what we do. Your loved ones are in great hands with us."

Arbor Hospice was founded in 1984 to provide end-of-life services in patients' homes and in nursing homes. A 30-bed hospice residence opened in 1998 at 2366 Oak Valley Drive in Pittsfield Township.

The agency now has about 200 employees who care for most of its patients in their homes or nursing homes, in addition to 25 or 30 at a time at the hospice residence. About 80 percent of 215 patients in care this week are Washtenaw County residents. The agency also operates out of offices in Trenton and Northville.

Susan Oppat can be reached at soppat@annarbornews.com or at 734-482-1166.

©2007 Ann Arbor News

© 2007 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published August 19, 2007

Aging's price: As senior ranks, needs grow, expect tax bite to grow, too

It must be a primary goal of Michigan policy to keep seniors out of traditional nursing home care as long as possible. Not only does that enhance seniors' independence, but it's a matter of simple expediency.

Nursing home care is expensive. A year in a Michigan nursing home costs \$67,000 a year - for a semi-private room. And with roughly 7 of every 10 people in nursing homes covered by Medicaid, big costs are being borne by taxpayers.

In fact, Medicaid is one of the biggest drivers of increased costs to Michigan government - the same Michigan government struggling to balance its annual budget.

Part of the problem is that Michigan is nursing-home heavy on Medicaid. Statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation show that Michigan spent 64 percent of its Medicaid long-term-care dollars on nursing facilities in 2006. By contrast, the national average was 43 percent, Ohio was 48 percent and Illinois was 45 percent.

Michigan spent only 35 percent of its Medicaid long-term-care dollars on home health and personal care. Yet, such home care is cheaper than nursing home care - in part because it's usually much less intensive.

Michigan has been diversifying options for long-term care - work stemming from the report of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's long-term-care task force.

Still, the state is fighting a couple of demographic trends.

First, more Michiganiens are getting older, as the baby boom generation reaches senior status.

Second, advances in health care and financing mean elderly Americans are living longer.

These trends mean that even with improvements in assisted senior living or home care, lots of residents will eventually need the 24/7 institutionalized care provided at nursing homes.

Among suggestions made by workgroups in the governor's task force were boosting the use of private long-term care insurance policies; shifting the full cost of nursing coverage of some patients to the federal government (Medicaid is jointly funded by the state and federal budgets); and having state leaders commit to take action to "adequately fund" long-term care.

But that's the trick: How do you "adequately fund" a program that will face rising demand when your resources are limited?

That's where Michigan taxpayers better prepare for a difficult reality:

Barring major changes in cultural attitudes or costs of senior care, higher taxes are ahead.

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the
Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)

[Click here to print](#) or select **File** then **Print** from your browser

Michigan Leaders Aim to End Homelessness by 2016

By **jacob dauler**

According to the [Michigan State Housing Development Authority](#), officials leading the Campaign to end Homelessness in Michigan will tour the State in August and September along with the representatives of local agencies like the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Community Health (DCH) to discuss the plans and progress till date with the their affiliates at the city, township and county level and local non profit agencies working in the region.

According to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Campaign to end Homelessness initiated in Michigan is the first of its kind and it could be initiated because the people of Michigan truly believed that housing is an absolute right that should be made available to all. People of the State got together under the aegis of this campaign to ensure that all people are assured of a roof over their heads and are not left to sleep in the woods or street. This Campaign of the people of Michigan to end Homelessness is truly a model campaign that should be duplicated in other States.

The Campaign to end Homelessness was first initiated in October 2006 when members from all eight regions of the State of Michigan came together to pledge their allegiance towards the cause of eliminating the problem of homelessness from the State of Michigan. This summit meeting took place in Lansing where over 60 plans were presented that detailed the steps that should be taken to remove homelessness from Michigan State. These 60 plans covered the entire area of the State of Michigan comprising of 83 counties. These plans laid out in detail the strategies that would be used, the timelines in which goals should be achieved and the collaborations that are to be entered into to ensure that the State of Michigan is rid of the problem of homelessness by 2016.

According to the Executive Director, MSHDA, Mr. Michael R. DeVos, the present meetings that are being organized across the State was a means to exchange information regarding the actual work that is being done at the State level, the progress and the steps that need be taken in the future, amongst the representatives of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Community Health (DCH).

According to the MSHDA, these meetings are an opportunity by which local non profit organizations can present their contribution in this campaign and discuss how the same contribution can be taken across borders to different counties. It is an excellent platform for all communities to come together and discuss the present situation, progress and future action that needs be taken. These meetings are seen as an excellent opportunity to create awareness regarding the Campaign to end homelessness and its progress amongst the members of the Community.

According to Michigan State Housing Development Authority the dates and location of the meetings that are scheduled are given below. People interested in knowing more about the Campaign are requested to attend the meeting near their place.

1. For Region 1: (Upper Peninsula) the meeting is organized on August 27th at Escanaba/10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Bay de Noc Community College, 2001 North Lincoln, Learning Resource Center -- Room 800/Auditorium, Escanaba, MI)
2. For Region 2: (Northern Michigan) the meeting is organized on August 28th at Grayling/12:30 p.m. at 2650 I-75 Business Loop, Grayling, MI
3. For Region 3: (West Central Michigan) the meeting is organized on September 13th at Ludington/9:30 a.m. at the Harbor View Marina, 400 South Rath, Ludington, MI
4. For Region 4: (East Central Michigan) the meeting is organized on August 29th at Midland/9:00 a.m. at the Bullock Creek High School Auditorium, 1420 South Badour, Midland, MI
5. For Region 5: Thumb Area the meeting is organized on August 30th at Capac/Mussey/9:30 a.m. at the Capac Jr/Sr High School, 541 N. Glassford Street, Mussey, MI
6. For Region 6: (Southwest Michigan) the meeting is organized on August 20th at Centreville/9:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District, 62445 Shimmel Rd., Centerville, MI
7. For Region 7: (South Central Michigan) the meeting is organized on August 21st at Jackson/9:00 a.m. at the Lifeways MCO, Executive Board Room, 1200 N. West Avenue, Jackson, MI
8. For Region 8: (Southeast Michigan) the meeting is organized on September 6th at Farmington Hills/9:00 a.m. at the Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., Orchard Ridge Campus room J292, Farmington Hills, MI

Michigan State Housing Development Authority. "State of Michigan Leaders Continue Commitment to Ending Homelessness in Michigan - Tour of the State in August & September". prnewswire. URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/08-17-2007/0004647354&EDATE=>





This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published August 19, 2007

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Social Security](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [Science](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

CCRESA announces guidelines for free lunch

ST. JOHNS — On Aug. 13, the Clinton County Regional Educational Service Agency, on behalf of the six constituent school districts, announce its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the national school lunch, school breakfast, special milk or commodity school programs.

To be eligible for free meals or free milk, a family of four must have a total household income of less than \$26,845 annually; \$2,238 monthly; \$1,119 twice per month; \$1,303 every two weeks or \$517 weekly. For each additional family member, add \$4,524 to the annual; \$377, monthly; \$189 twice per month; \$174 every two weeks or \$87 weekly.

To be eligible for reduced-price meals, a family of four must have a total household income of less than \$38,203 annually; \$3,184 monthly; \$1,592 twice per month; \$1,470 every two weeks or \$735 weekly. For each additional family member in the household add \$6,438 annually; \$537 monthly; \$269 twice per month; \$248 every two weeks or \$124 weekly.

Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households should fill out the form and return it to the school. Additional copies of the application form are available at the principal's office in each school. Households should answer all questions on the form.

Non food stamp households — An application which does not contain all of the following information cannot be processed by the school: total income by source for each household member (such as wages, child support, etc.); names of all household members; social security number of the adult household member who signs the application; and the signature of an adult household member.

Food stamp/FIP/FDPIR households — If currently receiving food stamps, Family Independence Program (FIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) benefits for a child, it is only necessary to list the child's name and food stamp or FIP/FDPIR case number and sign the

application.

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility, verifying date or qualifying children for other federal and state programs, as authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture. The school or other officials may verify applications at any time during the school year. Households may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible but has a decrease in household income, an increase in household size or if a household member becomes unemployed, the household should fill out an application at that time.

In most cases, foster children are eligible for these benefits regardless of the household's income. If a household has foster children living with them and they wish to apply for free or reduced-price meals or milk for them, the household should contact the school for more information.

Under the provisions of the policy, the principal/administrator will review applications and determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. The household also has the right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the following official: L.D. Lloyd, Superintendent. The administration office has a copy of the complete policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Reapply — Households may reapply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. In the event of a job loss, decrease in income, start of food stamps or FIP/FDPIR, fill out an application at that time.

— *From CCRESA*

Copyright 2007 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated August 2006)

[\[Back\]](#)



Volunteer at pantry helps keep folks fed

Monday, August 20, 2007

Walt Krudwig is trying hard to wipe out hunger.

More than nine years ago, Krudwig began shouldering responsibility for overseeing the North Parma United Methodist Food Pantry.

He donates countless hours preparing grocery supplies and ensuring things run smoothly at the pantry.

"He does all the buying of food and other supplies, and he is as good as any housewife in searching for the best prices," said Gail Buettgenbach, a volunteer for the food pantry.

Krudwig organizes various fundraisers and programs to help support the food program. He prepares supplies of groceries that are picked up by families or delivered by volunteer drivers.

If a family lacks reliable transportation to get to the pantry, Krudwig will personally deliver the food.

"He never turns anyone with a need away," Buettgenbach said.

"His food pantry store is arranged carefully and would put most grocery stores to shame with the neatness."

Volunteer awards

Jackson volunteers Roger Roty and Barbara Truax are living proof you're never too old to help others.

Roty, 71, and Truax, 83, recently were named Senior Citizens of the Year by the Jackson County Department on Aging. The pair received recognition for their volunteer dedication during an Aug. 6 presentation at the Jackson County Fair.

Roty, who was nominated by Catholic Charities of Jackson, was honored for leadership. He is involved with the Linen Closet, helping to distribute personal items to those in need. He is also active in the Partnership Park Program, an after-school program for children.

Truax's award for service was the result of her nomination by the Department on Aging.

Truax currently serves as editor of a monthly newsletter for the Crouch Center and is treasurer of the nonprofit Friends of Jackson Seniors.

The Jackson County Advisory Council on Aging reviews nomination application and selects the award recipients, said Kristy Smith, director of the Department on Aging.

Smith and Clifford Herl, vice chairman of Jackson County Board of Commissioners, made presentations of signed resolutions and plaques to Roty and Truax

"It was a nice little ceremony and honored some very deserving individuals," Smith said.

"In his acceptance speech, Mr. Roty did a wonderful job of stating you can't be too old or too disabled to be out there volunteering."

VOLUNTEERS

Ann Arbor News

Saturday, August 18, 2007

CLERICAL, VISITORS, MENTORS

The Michigan Department of Human Services in Washtenaw County seeks medical transporters, clerical aides, visitors for seniors and disabled people and mentors for youth. Details: 734-481-8377.